IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1 line 2, change "Background of the Invention" to "Field of the Invention".

One page 1, after line 4, insert in the middle of the blank line, "Background of the Invention".

On page 1, original line 10 change " "Spam Assasin" (trademark of ___)" to "Spam Assasin™" (see paragraph below).

The Internet is well known today, and comprises a network of user computers and servers. One role of the Internet is to provide a vehicle to exchange e-mail. A common problem today is "spam", where a server sends commercial e-mails to numerous (thousands, even millions of) user computers via the Internet. The spam clogs the Internet and the mail boxes of the user computers, and wastes user time in identifying the spam and deleting it. Spam detectors and filters are well known today such as Spam Assasin™ program. Typically, a spam detector and filter are installed at an edge router or a firewall for a server. The server provides an e-mail transfer function for multiple user computers. The spam detector reviews incoming e-mail to detect when the same e-mail (i.e. same or substantially the same text) is addressed to multiple different users. The spam detector may ignore e-mails sent from entities known to be bona fide correspondents, such as employees of the same corporation to which the e-mails are sent. These entities can be recorded on a list accessible to the spam detector. But, the same e-mails sent from another entity to multiple different users are assumed to be spam. For those cases where the e-mails are assumed to be spam, the spam detector reads the IP address of the sender, and then blocks subsequent e-mails from the same IP address by creating a spam filter rule. Each spam filter rule may specify a source IP address from which e-mail will not be accepted. The filter rule is enforced at the firewall or router, or the gateway server in the absence of a firewall or router. The blockage or filter rule may be in effect for a predetermined amount of time, or can be periodically removed when there filter becomes too complex.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 5, lines 20-21 change "Spam Assasin" " to "Spam Assasin™" (see paragraph below).

The server 112 includes a message transfer agent ("MTA") 129, i.e. a program function which forwards e-mail, determined not to be spam, received from the firewall or router 110 to the intended recipient/user. For example, MTA 129 can be that of Postfix (trademark of Postfix Corporation) program. The server 112 also includes a known spam detector 121 such as Spam Assasin™ spam detector program. The spam detector 121 may be part of the MTA 129 or a separate program. The spam detector reviews incoming e-mail to detect when the same e-mail (i.e. the same or substantially the same text) is addressed to multiple different recipients/users. The spam detector may ignore e-mails sent from bona fide correspondents, such as employees of a corporation to which the e-mails are sent, such that these e-mails are not considered to be spam. The "bona fide correspondents" may be recorded on a list accessible to the spam detector. But, the same e-mails sent from another entity to multiple recipients/users are assumed to be spam. The user computer 114 may also include an optional spam detector program 123 which identifies spam based on host-based screening software or preferences of the user. The source IP addresses identified by this optional spam detector program 123 result in additional filter rules (each blocking e-mail from a single IP address or range of IP addresses) that can be applied at the firewall or router 110.